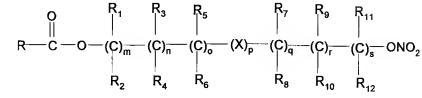
I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of general formula (A)



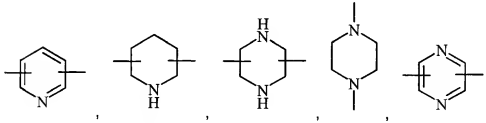
(A)

wherein R_1-R_{12} are the same or different and independently are hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, optionally substituted with aryl;

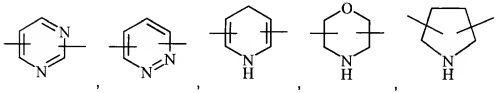
m, n, o, q, r and s are each independently an integer from 0 to 6, and p is 0 or 1, and

X is O, S, SO, SO_2, NR_{13} or PR_{13}, in which R_{13} is hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, or X is selected from the group consisting of:

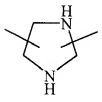
- saturated or unsaturated C_5-C_7 cycloalkylene, optionally substituted with one or more straight or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl groups;
- arylene, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl groups containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a straight or branched C_1-C_3 perfluoroalkyl;
- a 5 or 6 member saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic heterocyclic ring selected from



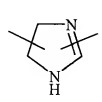
(X1) (X2) (X3) (X4) (X5)



(X6) (X7) (X8) (X9) (X10)



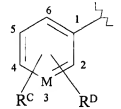
(X11)



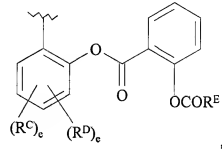
(X12)

(X13)

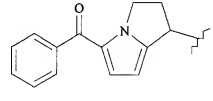
and R is the radical of a pharmacologically active compound selected from the ~~formulae (I) (XXXI) listed in the specification or~~ group consisting of:



(I)



(II)



(III)

wherein M is a carbon or nitrogen atom;

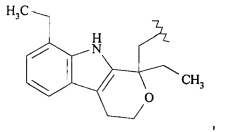
R^C is selected from: H, OH, NH_2, R^ECONH-, R^ECOO-, an heterocyclic residue with 5 or 6 atoms that may be aromatic, saturated or unsaturated, containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur, and phenylamino (PhNH-), in which the aromatic ring may be substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, straight or branched C_1-C_4-alkyl and straight or if

possible branched perfluoroalkyl;

e is 0 or 1;

R^E is selected from the group consisting of straight or branched C_1-C_5-alkyl, phenyl substituted with $OCOR^F$, wherein R^F is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl or straight or branched C_3-C_6-alkyl or phenyl;

R^D is selected from: H, OH, halogen, $-NH_2$, straight or branched C_1-C_6-alkoxy, perfluoroalkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms and mono or di-(C_1-C_6)alkylamino; with the proviso that R^C and R^D cannot both be H;



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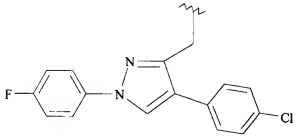
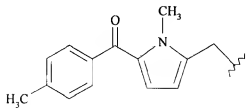
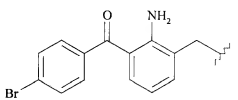


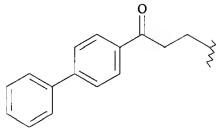
(V)



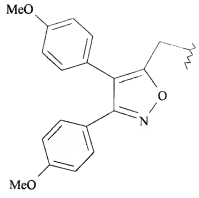
(VI)



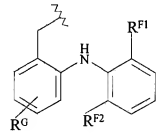
(VII)



(VIII)

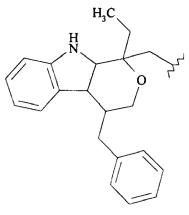


(IX)

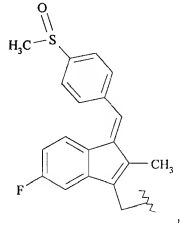


(X)

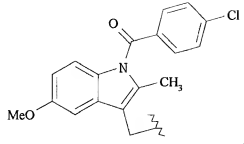
wherein R^{F1} and R^{F2} are halogens selected from chlorine, fluorine or bromine, R^G is hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_6-alkyl;



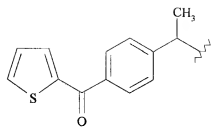
(XI)



(XII)



(XIII)



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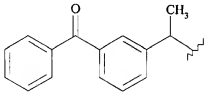
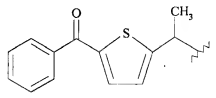


(XV)



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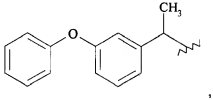

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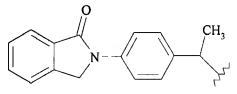
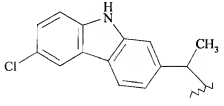


(XVIII)



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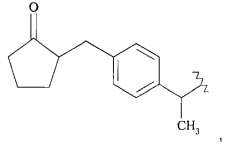
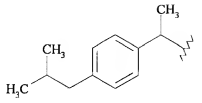
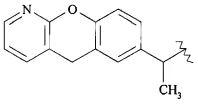


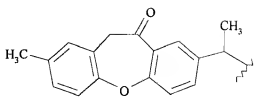
(XXI)



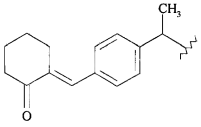
(XXII)



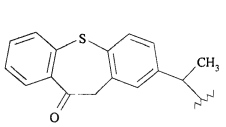
(XXIII)



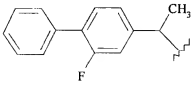
(XXIV)



(XXV)



(XXVI)



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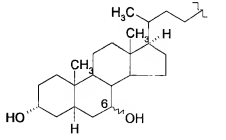
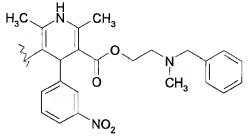
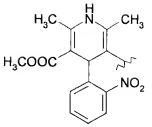


(XXVIII)

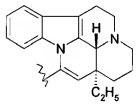
wherein the bond at 6 position in formula (XXVIII) may be α or β;



(XXIX)



(XXX)



(XXXI) ;

~~the ferulic acid radical of formula (XXXII),~~

~~wherein R' is H, or a group R(CO)-, in which R is as above defined,~~

and wherein in all the formulae (I-XXXI) listed above, the wavy line represents the position wherein –COO- group is bound;

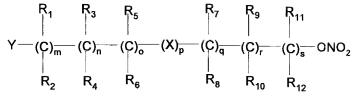
said process comprising reacting a compound of formula (B)

R-COOZ (B)

wherein R is as above defined and Z is hydrogen or a cation selected from

Li+, Na+, K+, Ca++, Mg++, tetralkylammonium, tetralkylphosphonium,

with a compound of formula (C)



(C)

wherein R_1-R_{12} and m,n,o,p,q,r,s are as defined above and

Y is selected from

~~a Br, Cl, I;~~

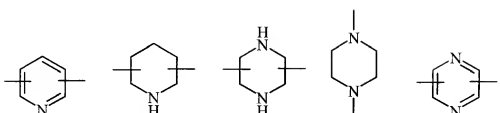
- $-BF_4$, $-SbF_6$, FSO_3-, R_ASO_3-, in which R_A is a straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, or a ~~C1-C6~~ C_1-C_6 alkylaryl;
- R_BCOO^-, wherein R_B is straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, aryl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms or NO_2 groups, C_4-C_{10} heteroaryl and containing one or more heteroatoms, which are the same or different, selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur or phosphorus;
- aryloxy optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms or NO_2 groups, or heteroaryloxy.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to claim 1 wherein:

the substituents R_1-R_{12} are the same or different and independently are hydrogen or straight or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl,

m, n, o, p, q, r and s are as defined above,

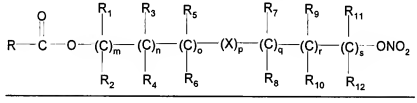
X is O, S or



(X1) (X2) (X3) (X4) (X5)

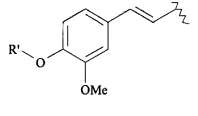
Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to claim 1 wherein R_1-R_4 and R_7-R_{10} are hydrogens[[,]]; m, n, q, and r[[,]] are 1[[,]]; o and s are 0[[,]]; p is 0 or 1[[,]]; and X is O or S.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A)



(A)

~~according to claim 1~~ wherein R is the the ferulic acid radical of formula (XXXII):



(XXXII)

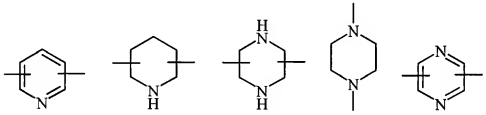
~~as reported in the specification,~~ wherein R' is H, or a group R(CO)-, in which R is as above identified; ~~the radical of a pharmacologically active compound selected from the formulae (I)-(XXXI) listed in the specification~~

and wherein the wavy line represents the position wherein a –COO group is bound;

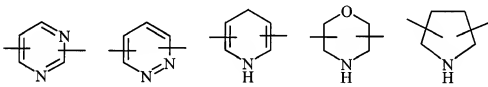
R_1-R_{12} are the same or different and independently are hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, optionally substituted with aryl;

m, n, o, q, r and s are each independently an integer from 0 to 6, and p is 0 or 1, and X is O, S, SO, SO_2, NR_{13} or PR_{13}, in which R_{13} is hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, or X is selected from the group consisting of:

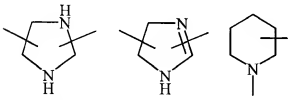
- saturated or unsaturated C_5-C_7 cycloalkylene, optionally substituted with one or more straight or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl groups;
- arylene, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl groups containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a straight or branched C_1-C_3 perfluoroalkyl;
- a 5 or 6 member saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic heterocyclic ring selected from



(X1) (X2) (X3) (X4) (X5)



(X6) (X7) (X8) (X9) (X10)

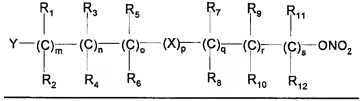


(X11) (X12) (X13)

said process comprising reacting a compound of formula (B):

R-COOZ (B)

wherein R is as above defined and Z is hydrogen or a cation selected from Li+, Na+, K+, Ca++, Mg++, tetralkylammonium, tetralkylphosphonium, with a compound of formula (C):



(C)

wherein R_1-R_{12} and m,n,o,p,q,r,s are as defined above and

Y is selected from

- Br, Cl or I;

-BF_4, -SbF_6, FSO^{3-}, R_ASO^{3-}, in which R_A is a straight or branched C_1-C_8 alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, or a C_1-C_8 alkylaryl;

R_BCOO-, wherein R_B is straight or branched C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms or NO_2 groups, C_4-C_{10} heteroaryl and containing one or more heteroatoms, which are the same or different, selected from nitrogen, oxygen sulfur and phosphorus;

aryloxy optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms or NO_2 groups, or heteroaryloxy.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to claim 1 or 4, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of Br, Cl, I,.- BF_4, -SbF_6, ClO_4-, FSO_3-, CF_3SO_3-, $C_2F_5SO_3$-, $C_3F_7SO_3$-, $C_4F_9SO_3$-, p-$CH_3C_6H_4SO_3$-.

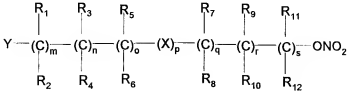
Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to claim 1 or 4, wherein the reaction is performed in an organic solvent selected from acetone, tetrahydrofurane, dimethylformamide, N-methylpyrrolidone, sulfolane and acetonitrile.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to ~~anyone of the~~ claim 1 or 4, wherein the reaction is performed in a biphasic system comprising an aprotic dipolar solvent selected from toluene, chlorobenzene, nitrobenzene, tert-butyl-methylether and a water solution wherein the organic solution contains (C) and the water solution contain an alkaline metal salt of (B), in presence of a phase transfer catalyst.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to claim 1 or 4, wherein the reaction is performed at a temperature ranging from 0°C to 100°C.

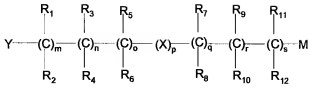
Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to claim 1 wherein the compounds of formula B and C are reacted at a (B)/(C) molar ratio of 2-0.5.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)



(C)

wherein R_1-R_{12}, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, X, Y are as defined in claim 1, comprising reacting a compound of the following formula (D)



(D)

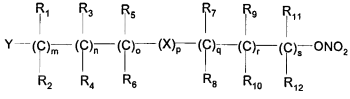
wherein M is OH and the other substituents and indices are as above defined, with a nitrating agent.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)[[.]]$_4$ according to claim 11 wherein the nitrating agent is sulfonitric mixture.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)[[.]]$_4$ according to claim 11 wherein the compound (D) and the nitrating agent are at molar ratio of 2-0.5.

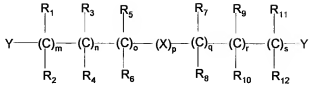
Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)[[.]]$_4$ according to claim 11 wherein the reaction is performed at a temperature ranging from 0°C to 100°C.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)



(C)

wherein R_1-R_{12}, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, X, Y are as defined in claim 1, comprising reacting a compound of the following formula (E),



(E)

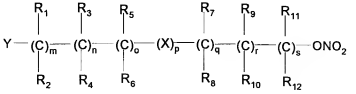
wherein R_1-R_{12}, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, X, Y are as defined above with a nitrating agent.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)[[.]]$_4$ according to claim 15$_4$ wherein the nitrating agent is selected from alkaline metal nitrates, quaternary ammonium nitrates, quaternary phosphonium nitrates, $AgNO_3$, $Zn(NO_3)_2$ $6H_2O$.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)[[.]]$_4$ according to claim 15$_4$ wherein the compound of formula (E) and the nitrating agent are at molar ratio of 20:2.

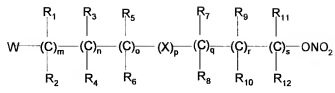
Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)[[.]]$_4$ according to claim 15$_4$ wherein the reaction is performed at a temperature ranging from 0°C to 100°C.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)



(C)

wherein R_1-R_{12}, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, X, Y are as defined in claim 1, comprising reacting a compound of the following formula (F),



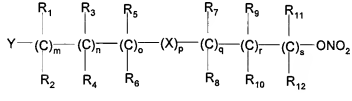
(F)

wherein R_1-R_{12}, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, X, are as defined above, W is OH or halogen, with a compound selected from alkanoylsulfonylchloride and trifluoromethansulfonic anhydride when W is OH or with $AgSbF_6$, $AgBF_4$, $AgClO_4$, CF_3SO_3Ag, $AgSO_3CH_3$, $CH_3C_6H_4SO_3Ag$ when W is halogen.

Claim 20. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C) according to claim 19 wherein the compound (F) and the nitrating agent are at molar ratio of 2:0.5.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (C)[[.]], according to claim 19, wherein the reaction is performed at a temperature ranging from 0°C to 100°C.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (C)



(C)

wherein R_1-R_{12}, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, X, Y are as defined in claim 1 with the proviso that Y is not halogen.

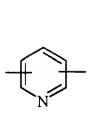
Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing carboxylic acid nitrooxyalkyl derivatives of formula (A) of claim 19, comprising using ~~Use of~~ nitrooxyalkyl derivatives of general formula (C) ~~according to claim 20~~ as intermediates ~~for preparing carboxylic acid nitrooxyalkyl esters of formula (A)~~.

Claim 24. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to claim 4, wherein R_1-R_{12} are the same or different and independently are hydrogen or a straight or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl,

m, n, o, p, q, r and s are as defined above,

X is O, S or

,



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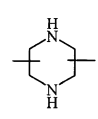

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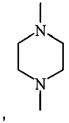

, or

.

(X1) (X2) (X3) (X4) (X5)

Claim 25. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to claim 4, wherein R_1-R_4 and R_7-R_{10} are hydrogens; m, n, q and r are 1; o and s are 0; p is 0 or 1; and X is O or S.

Claim 26. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (A) according to claim 4, wherein in the compound of formula (B), Y is Br.